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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Regarding: Michael J. Mullane
Serial No. 09/967,250
Filing Date 09/28/2001
For SNOW STOP

2005 Amendment

Attention: Art Unit 3635
Examiner Nahid Amiri

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M.S. Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I certify that this correspondence is facsimile-transmitted
to the Patent and Trademark Office (703 872 9306) on 08 MAR 2005:

Christopher John Rudy: Christopher John Rudy March 8, 2005.

Thank you for the 02/24/2005 Office action for the
application of reference. In reply to the action, please
reconsider and further examine this application.

Three sheets of CLAIMS AMENDMENTS follow the present page.

This amendment more particularly points out and distinctly
claims the invention, and is fully supported by the underlying
specification to include drawings. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-3 and 9-17; 21-25; and 26-28 are present.

There are twenty (20) total with three (3) independent and
zero (0) multiply dependent claims. No additional fee is due.

Claims 18-20 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer,
and new claims 26-28 are added. Claim 26 corresponds to former
claim 18 plus former, allowable claim 20; claims 27 and 28, both
dependent on claim 26, to former claim 19 and clauses in allowed
claim 21, respectively. Claims 1-3, 9-17 and 21-25 are allowed.

Thus, the case is in condition for allowance. Nevertheless,
the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to discuss the
case, or seek authorization for an Examiner's amendment.

The 35 USC 103(a) rejections of claims 18 & 19, however, are
traversed. Francovitch is not related, and there is no practical
motivation to combine it with Smeja et al., which teaches away,
with claim 19 having been repeatedly allowed. The Examiner's
reasoning in support of the rejections is in serious error.

A Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 8, 2005 A.D.

Attmt: CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

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